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THE

ARTICLES

Recommended by the

ARCH-BISHOP OF CANTERBURY

To all the Bishops within his Metropolitan Jurisdiction, the 16th of July, 1688.

S I R,

Yesterday the Archbishop of Canterbury deliver'd the Articles which I send you inclosed, to those Bishops who are at present in this place; and ordered Copies of them to be likewise sent in his Name to the absent Bishops. By the Contents of them, you will see that the Storm in which he is, does not frighten him from doing his Duty; but rather awakens him to do it with so much the more vigour: and indeed, the Zeal that he expresses in these Articles, both against the Corruptions of the Church of Rome on the one hand, and the unhappy Differences that are among Protestants on the other, are such Apostolical Things, that all good Men rejoyce to see so great a Prelate at the Head of our Church, who in this Critical Time has had the Courage to do his Duty in so signal a manner. I am,

London, July 27, 1688.

Sir,

Yours.

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Some *Heads* of things to be more fully insisted upon by the *Bishops* in their *Addresses* to the *Clergy* and *People* of their respective *Diocesses*.

I. **T**hat the *Clergy* often read over the *Forms* of their *Ordination*; and seriously consider, what *Solemn Vows* and *Professions* they made therein to God and his Church, together with the several *Oaths* and *Subscriptions* they have taken and made upon divers Occasions.

II. That in Compliance with those and other *Obligations*, they be Active and Zealous in all the Parts and Instances of their *Duty*, and especially strict and exact in all Holy *Conversation*, that so they may become Examples to the Flock.

III. To this end, that they be constantly *Resident* upon their *Cures* in their Incumbent Houses; and keep sober Hospitality there according to their Ability.

IV. That they diligently *Catechise* the Children and Youth of their *Parishes* (as the *Rubrick* of the *Common-Prayer-Book*, and the 59th Canon injoin) and so prepare them to be brought in due time to *Confirmation*, when there shall be Opportunity; and that they also at the same time expound the Grounds of *Religion* and the *Common Christianity*, in the Method of the *Catechism*, for the Instruction and Benefit of the whole Parish, teaching them what they are to believe, and what to do, and what to pray for; and particularly often and earnestly inculcating upon the Importance and Obligation of their *Baptismal Vows*.

V. That they perform the *Daily Office* publicly (with all Decency, Affection and Gravity) in all *Market* and other Great *Towns*, and even in *Villages*, and less populous *Places*, bring People to *Publick Prayers* as frequently as may be; especially on such Days and at such Times as the *Rubrick* and *Canons* appointed on *Holy Days*, and their *Eves*, on *Ember* and *Rogation Days*, on *Wednesdays* and *Fridays* in each Week, and especially in *Advent* and *Lent*.

VI. That they use their utmost Endeavour, both in their *Sermons* and by *private Applications*, to prevail with such of their Flock as are of competent Age, to receive frequently the *Holy Communion*:
and

and to this end, that they administer it in the greater Towns once in every Month, and even in the lesser too, if *Communicants* may be procured, or how-ever as often as they may: and that they take all due Care, both by Preaching and otherwise, to prepare all for the worthy receiving of it.

VII. That in their *Sermons* they teach and inform their People (four times a Year at the least, as what the *Canon* require) that all *Usurp'd* and *Foreign* Jurisdiction is for most Just Causes taken away and abolish'd in this *Realm*, and no manner of Obedience or Subjection due to the same, or to any that pretend to act by virtue of it: but that the King's Power being in his Dominions highest under God, they upon all Occasions perswade the People to *Loyalty* and *Obedience* to his *Majesty* in all things *Lawful*, and to patient Submission in the rest; promoting (as far as in them lies) the publick Peace and Quiet of the World.

VIII. That they maintain fair Correspondence (full of the kindest Respects of all sorts) with the *Gentry* and *Persons of Quality* in their Neighbourhood, as being deeply sensible what reasonable Assistance and Countenance this poor *Church* hath received from them in her Necessities.

IX. That they often exhort all those of our Communion, to continue stedfast to the end in their most Holy Faith, and constant to their Profession; and to that end, to take heed of all Seducers, and especially of *Papish Emissaries*, who are now in great numbers gone forth amongst them, and more busie and active than ever. And that they take all occasions to convince our own Flock, that 'tis not enough for them to be Members of an *Excellent Church*, rightly and duly Reformed, bothin Faith and Worship, unless they do also reform and amend their own Lives, and so order their Conversation in all things as becomes the Gospel of Christ.

X. And forasmuch as those *Romish Emissaries*, like the Old Serpent, *Insidiantur Calcaneo*, are wont to be most busie and troublesome to our People at the end of their Lives, labouring to unsettle and perplex them in time of Sicknesse, and at the hour of Death; that therefore all who have the Cure of Souls, be more especially vigilant over them at that dangerous Season; that they stay not till they be sent for, but enquire out the Sick in their respective Parishes, and visit them frequently: that they examine them particularly concerning the state of their Souls, and instruct them in their Duties, and settle them in their Doubts, and comfort them in their Sorrows

and Sufferings, and pray often with them and for them; and by all the Methods which our Church prescribes, prepare them for the due and worthy receiving of the Holy *Eucharist*, the Pledg of their happy Resurrection: thus with their utmost Dilligence, watching over every Sheep within their Fold (especially in that critical Moment) lest those *Eviling Wolves* devour them.

XI. That they also walk in Wisdom towards those that are not of Our Communion: and if there be in their *Parishes* any such, that they neglect not frequently to confer with them in the Spirit of Meekness, seeking by all good Ways and Means to gain and win them over to our Communion: More especially that they have a very tender regard to our *Brethren* the *Protestant Dissenters*; that upon occasion offered, they visit them at their Houses, and receive them kindly at their own, and treat them fairly where-ever they meet them, discoursing calmly and civilly with them; perswading them (if it may be) to a full Compliance with our *Church*, or at least, that whereto we have already attained, we may all walk by the same Rule, and mind the same things: And in order hereunto that they take all Opportunities of assuring and convincing them, that the *Bishops* of this *Church* are really and sincerely irreconcilable Enemies to the Errors, Superstitious, Idolatries and Tyrannies of the *Church of Rome*; and that the very unkind Jealousies, which some have had of us to the contrary, were altogether groundless.

And in the last place, that they warmly and most affectionately exhort them, to joyn with us in daily fervent Prayer to the God of Peace, for an Universal Blessed Union of all *Reformed Churches*, both at *Home* and *Abroad*, against our common Enemies, and that all they who do confess the Holy Name of our dear Lord, and do agree in the Truth of his Holy Word, may also meet in one Holy Communion, and live in perfect Unity and Godly Love.

FINIS.